









## Providing support, offering hope, transforming lives.

December 1, 2009

To members of the State of Michigan House:

The AACIL has a rich history. Our actions have been of benefit throughout the community. We need to take *ACT* ion to assist the community of people who have disabilities to continue to be able to exercise their right to vote.

One way the legislature can take *ACT* ion to support and work on behalf of the citizen's of Michigan (including people who have disabilities) is to enact House Bill #4373 and House Bill #4374. People with disabilities are more likely to have transient housing and we want all people to be able to exercise their right to vote in the community in which they are residing. The same is true for people who are homeless, people who are undergoing rehabilitation, people who are temporarily or permanently living in nursing homes or assisted living, and students in Universities from 2-8 years. The current PA 118 provision has been a huge barrier for people who have multiple or no address (es) to be civically engaged. For students, this has prevented people from holding seats on City Councils or Township Boards in their local communities.

The Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living recognizes the importance of voting and fully supports the rights of all legally eligible Michigan residents to have an opportunity to vote and take part in the electoral process. Everyone ought to be able to have the right to vote and take part in the local and state elections no matter where you current residence is located. With a statewide database of registered voters you would be able to establish an address and receive your polling location and monitor it so that people are not able to double vote.

Voting is a right we need to be able to exercise! Please take ACT ion so people will be able to ACT where they are living!

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Grawi, MSW, LMSW, ACSW Macro and Clinical Practice Director of Advocacy and Education email: cgrawi@aacil.org

A nonprofit organization dedicated to the success of children, youth and adults with disabilities at home, at school, at work and in the community.